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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/648,314	08/25/2000	Andrej Gregov	249768045US	6403

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EXAMINER

LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/648,314	Applicant(s) GREGOV ET AL.	
	Examiner Etienne P LeRoux	Art Unit 2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 16 and 27-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 16 and 27-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/19/2005 has been entered.

Claim Status:

Claims 1-14, 17-20, 25, 26 are cancelled. Claims 21-24 and 36-39 are withdrawn. Claims 15, 16 and 27-35 are pending. Claims 15, 16 and 27-35 are rejected as detailed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling.

Claim 15 recites “wherein the user has a user profile containing item ratings each for a rated item, and wherein none of the set of seed items is a rated item having a rating in the user profile.” One of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to make and use the invention without undue experimentation because the specification does not contain a clear and concise description

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of the process of ensuring that (1) the plurality of items displayed to the user and (2) the list of recommended items do **not** (emphasis added) contain items having a rating in the user profile.

Claim 16 includes language similar to claim 15 and is rejected on the same basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15, 16 and 27-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No 5,616,876 issued to Cluts (hereafter Cluts), as best examiner is able to ascertain.

Claims 15, 16 and 27-34 :

Cluts discloses:

- displaying a plurality of item indications to a user each indicating an item [playlist, col 13, lines 28-35]
- receiving input from the user selecting one or more of the displayed item indications [user scrolls and selects, col 13, lines 50-55]
- selecting as seed items the items indicated by the selected item indications [current song selected as seed song, col 14, lines 13-18]
- generating a list of recommended items using the selected seed item [more like function, col 14, lines 19- 28]

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- displaying the generated list of recommended items [Figs 4-8], wherein the user has a user profile containing item ratings each for a related item, and wherein none of the seed items is a rated item having a rating in the user profile [subscriber may add currently playing song to “my favorites,” col 13, line 63 – col 14, line 10]

Claim 33:

Cluts discloses wherein a distinguished one of the product groups comprises products that are books written by a single author, and wherein the information displayed for the distinguished product group describes the author [col 4, lines 55-65]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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3. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cluts in view of US Pat No 5,897,650 issued to Nakajima et al (hereafter Nakajima), as best examiner is able to ascertain.

Claim 35:

Cluts discloses the elements of claim 27 as noted above. Cluts fails to disclose wherein the control displayed for a distinguished product group is a draggable portion of the information describing the product group, together with a destination region, and wherein the control displayed for the distinguished product group is selected by the user by dragging the draggable portion of the information describing the product group to the destination region. Nakajima discloses wherein the control displayed for a distinguished product group is a draggable portion of the information describing the product group, together with a destination region, and wherein the control displayed for the distinguished product group is selected by the user by dragging the draggable portion of the information describing the product group to the destination region [Fig 2]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cluts to include wherein the control displayed for a distinguished product group is a draggable portion of the information describing the product group, together with a destination region, and wherein the control displayed for the distinguished product group is selected by the user by dragging the draggable portion of the information describing the product group to the destination region as taught by Nakajima for the purpose of creating a scrap book via the drag-and-drop mechanism [step 30 in Fig 23]. The skilled artisan would have been motivated to improve the invention of Cluts such that information can be easily inputted and outputted from a document via the drag-and-drop mechanism.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/15/2005, have been fully considered and found persuasive but are now moot based on above new grounds of rejection.

Contact Information

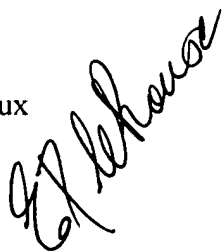
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne P LeRoux whose telephone number is (571) 272-4022. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Etienne LeRoux

11/29/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Etienne LeRoux', is written over the printed name and date.